

live with his wife—does not. indeed, take his meals with her. he visits her. more or less stealthily. at night. and has no concern with the upbringing of the children. In these circumstances woman. not man. is the pivot of society. and we have the conditions of the matriarchate. Children belong to their mother's family. women are the titular holders of property, and succession to property tends to go through the female line. We find traces of the matriarchate, subsisting throughout the world, in the cult of female divinities.

Conditions of warfare introduced momentous changes. Men who captured women in inter-tribal conflicts could hardly be denied the exclusive possession of them. and might retain them as their particular share of the booty. Life elaborates beauty from the humblest origins. and we need not shrink from believing that marriage has sprung from conditions of slavery. There are (as has already been mentioned) some curious survivals in marriage customs which seem to indicate that the wife was originally a captive woman. who. belonging to an alien tribe. was not subject to the claims of her captor's tribesmen. A leading warrior might not content himself with a single wife : to possess a number of wives might indeed become a sign of dignity. The conditions of peace were reversed. and a multiplicity of wives

took the place of a multiplicity of
husbands. Man
became the pivot of society : the
matriarchal
gave way to the patriarchal system.
and the
foundation was laid for family life as
we now
know it.

Woman's rule was, then, born of
peace. man's
rule of war, and it is amongst warlike
races that
we find the most despotic
developments of the
power of the husband and father.
Marriage